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**Abstract**

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The invention concerns a method of designing or controlling a basic industry plant process operation, in particular for a steelworks or rolling mill, decision variables concerning the process operation being optimized by means of a mathematical optimization algorithm which optimizes the decision variables concerning the process operation on the basis of a process model. The process model is distributed over two model planes, a higher-level model plane (1) and a lower model plane (2). The lower model plane (2) comprises partial models (3, 4, 5, 6) which are linked by at least one model (7) on the higher-level model plane.

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